

# Photon Sieve Telescopes

**Geoff Andersen**

**Laser and Optics Research Center  
US Air Force Academy**



# Photon Sieve

- Essentially a Fresnel Zone Plate with rings broken up into individual holes
- In simplest version holes are same diameter ( $d$ ) as ring width ( $w$ )

$$r_n^2 = 2nf\lambda + n^2 \lambda^2$$

- Can be randomly or regularly distributed with angle
- Can have any density (fill) in each zone as desired

$$w = \frac{\lambda f}{2r_n}$$

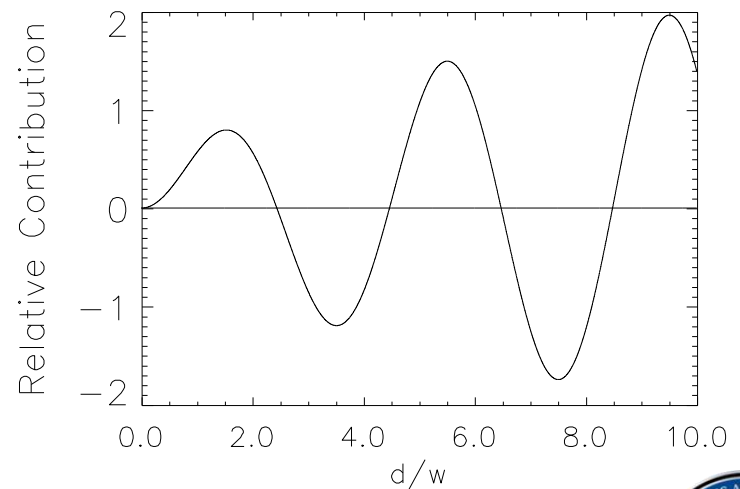
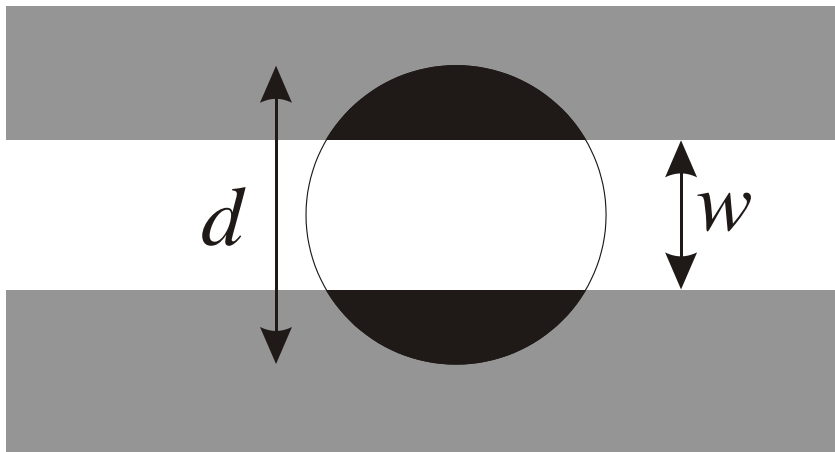


# Hole size

- Can make hole size ( $d$ ) > underlying zone ( $w$ ):

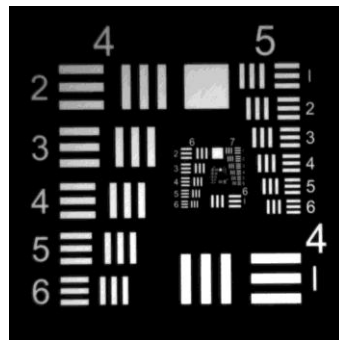
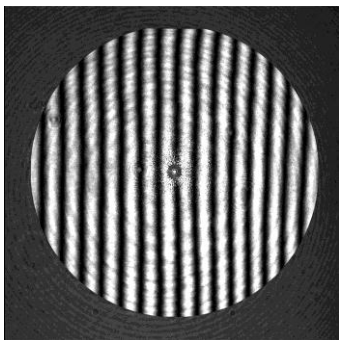
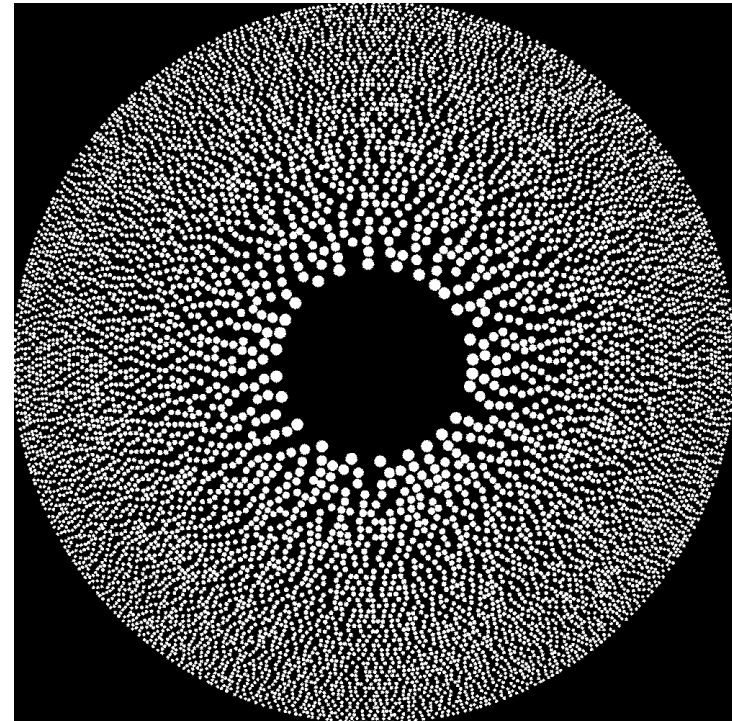
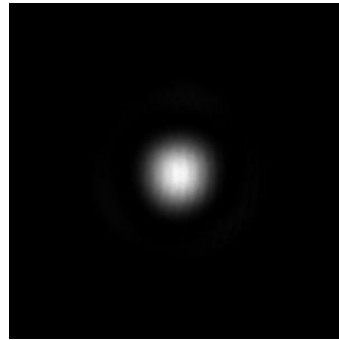
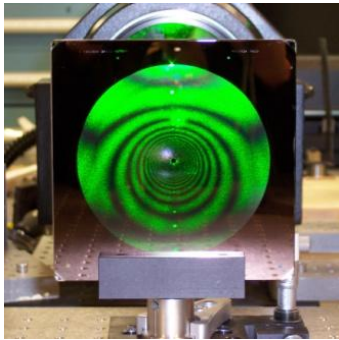
$$F \propto \frac{d}{w} J_1\left(\frac{\pi d}{2w}\right)$$

- Still get positive contribution so long as overlap with bright zone is greater than overlap with dark zone



# Summary of past work

- 4" tests using chrome-coated quartz sieves
  - 5 million holes, 20-330 $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter
  - 0.02 $\lambda$  RMS wavefront, 0.98 Strehl

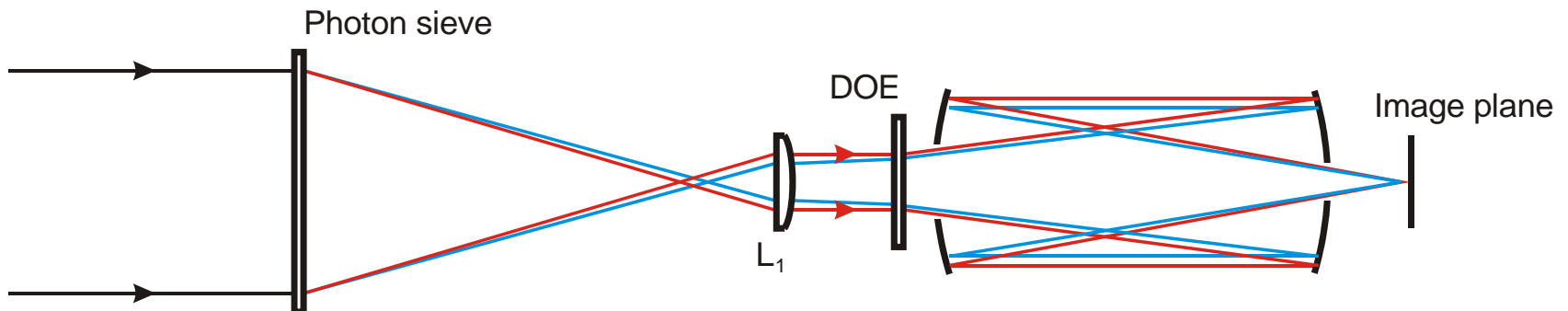
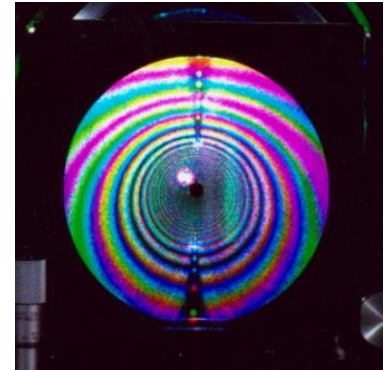


# Broadband operation

- Photon sieve is narrowband due to dispersion:

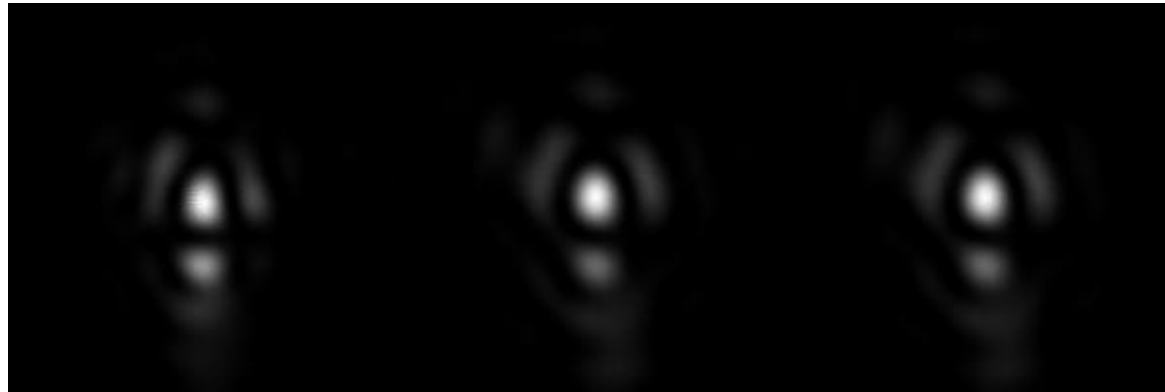
$$\Delta\lambda = \frac{2\lambda f^2}{D^2}$$

- Correct with secondary DOE (hologram)



# Broadband telescope

- HOE created in lab:  $D = 40\text{mm}$ ,  $f = -158\text{mm}$
- Demonstrated perfect imaging over 40nm bandwidth



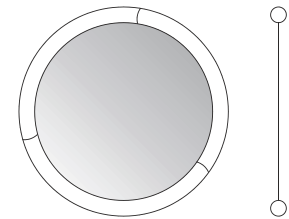
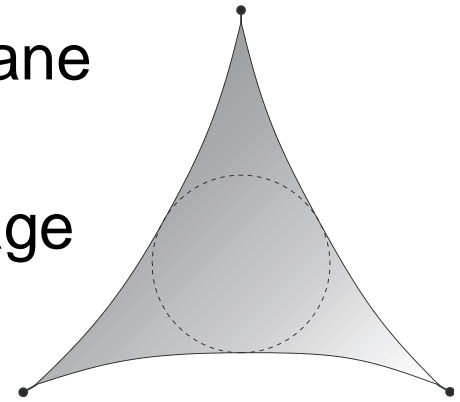
514nm

532nm

543nm

# Membrane photon sieves

- Quartz not an option for space applications
- Instead, want to pattern sieve on membrane
- Can be rolled, folded into compact package
- Deployed to larger aperture in space
- Easier to pull flat than form 3D in space
  - Use inflation or tensioning



# Thermal Distortion

- In-plane stretching or shrinkage of the substrate will move the holes locations off the zones
- Due to substrate itself or the support structure
  - Not simply a matter of finding a zero CTE polymer
- For a given CTE( $\alpha$ ) there will be a shift in the position of the outer ring of  $\Delta r$  :

$$\Delta r = \alpha.r.\Delta T < w/10$$

- Typically in the order of  $10^{-6} \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}^{-1}$



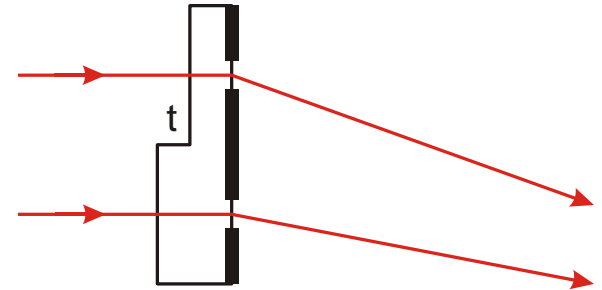


# Thickness Variation

- Sieve surface may be flat but the phase of the input wavefront is affected by substrate thickness variations
  - Problem for transmissive photon sieves
- OPD between any two zones depends on material thickness,  $t$  and refractive index,  $n$ :

$$OPD = t(n-1)$$

- Max thickness error for  $n = 1.45$ :  
 $\lambda/10 : t < 0.22\lambda$  (0.11 microns)

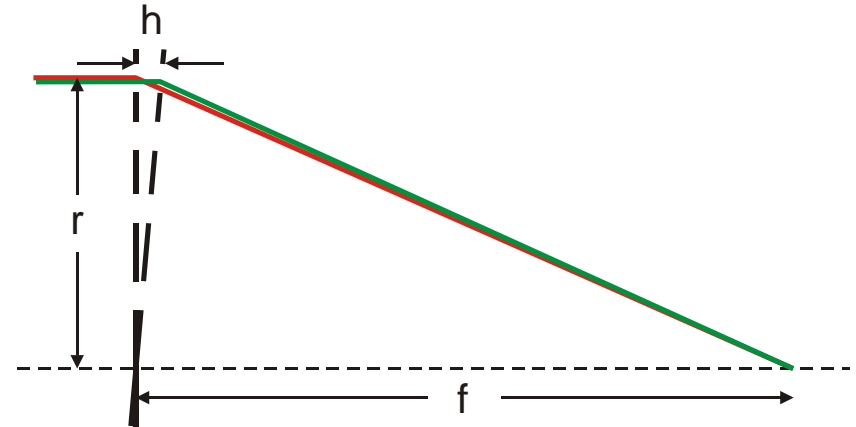


# Mechanical Deformation

- Surface deformations mean diffracted light is no longer perfectly in phase from one hole to another
- A deviation of height  $h$  will change the path length of a ray from that point according to:

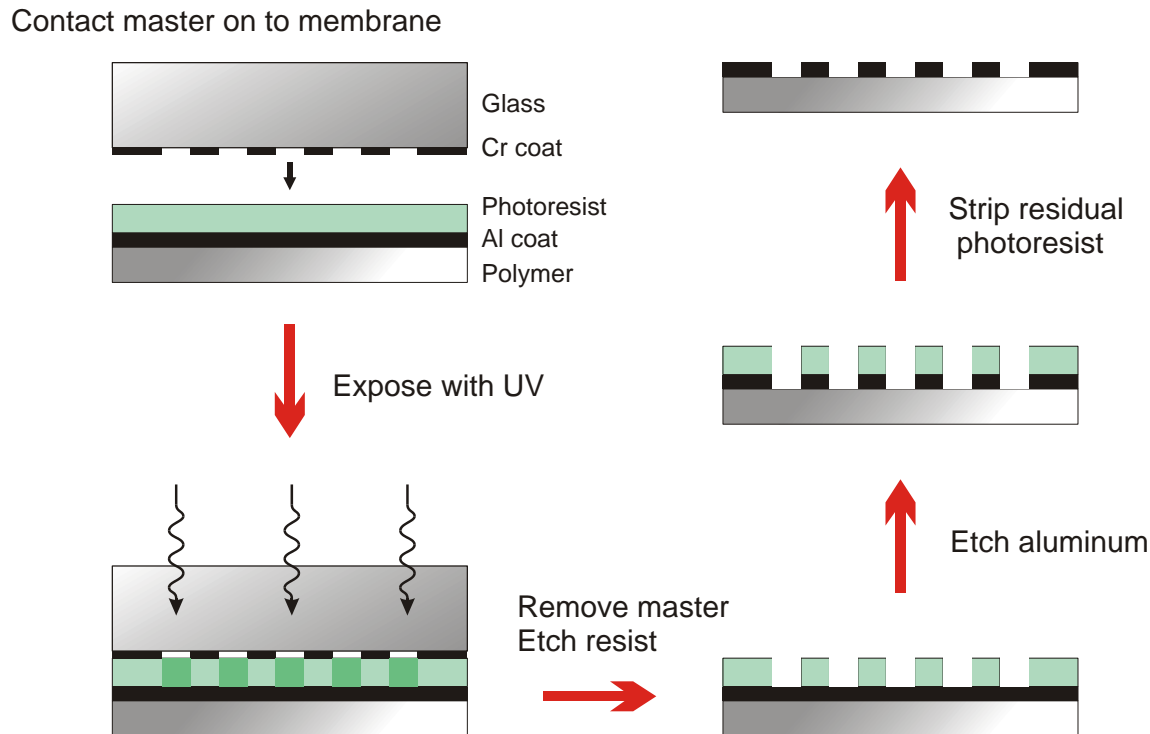
$$h = 2\phi (f/r)^2$$

- For  $D=1\text{m}$  ( $f/5$ ),  $\phi = \lambda/10$ :
  - Conventional mirror:  $h = \lambda/20$
  - Photon sieve:  $h = 20\lambda$



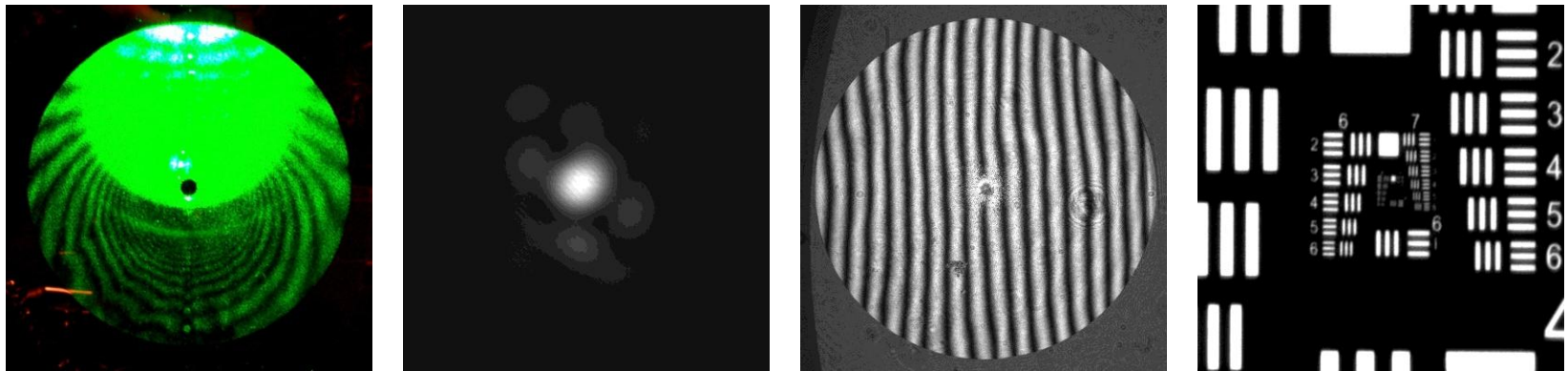
# Polyimide film

- 25 $\mu$ m thick polyimide with high thickness uniformity
- Coated with Al and photoresist for contact printing:



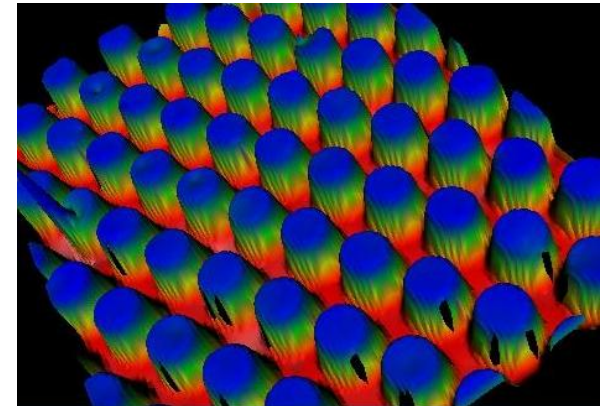
# Polyimide film

- Diffraction limited performance
- $0.056\lambda$  RMS wavefront error, 0.88 Strehl
  - Even with less than perfect surface flatness evident
- Efficiency of this antihole design was just 0.35%



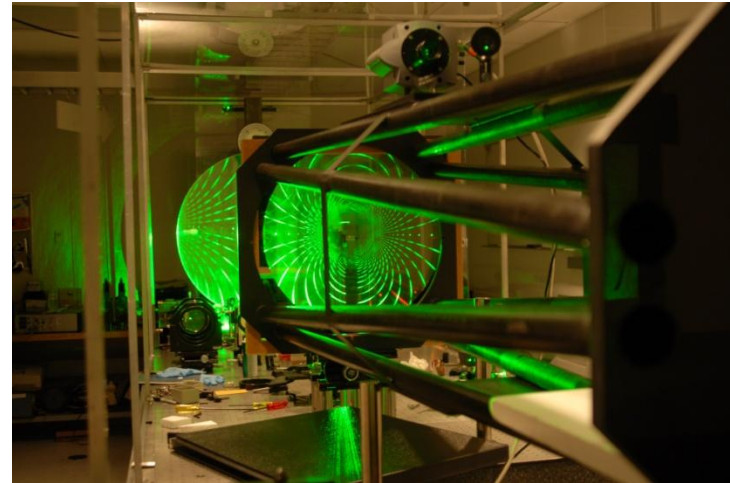
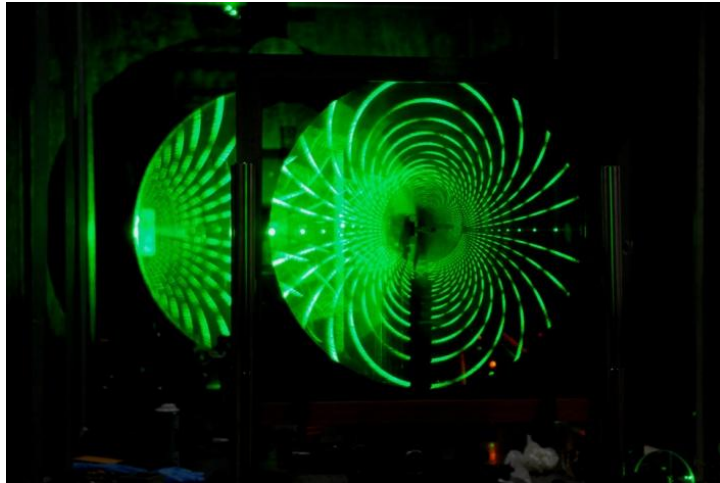
# Intensity vs Phase

- Transmission photon sieves are binary intensity DOEs with limited diffraction efficiency
- Created photon sieve with optimum 50% fill
  - 3.8 million holes ranging in size from 8-395 $\mu\text{m}$
- Al-coat CP1 films to convert to binary phase DOE
  - Al coating had to be  $\lambda/4$  thick
  - 133nm for 532nm light
- Efficiency improved from 3.5% to 10%



# Other Work

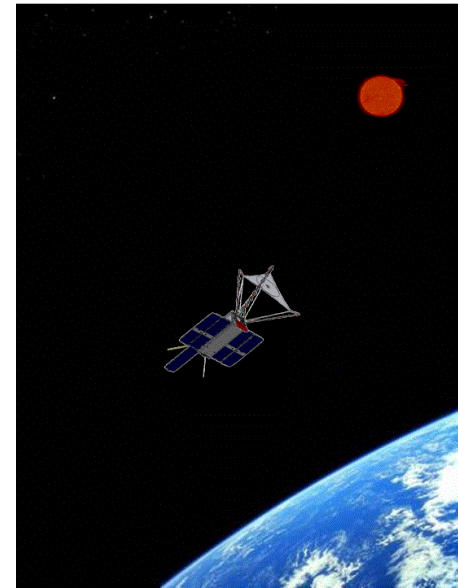
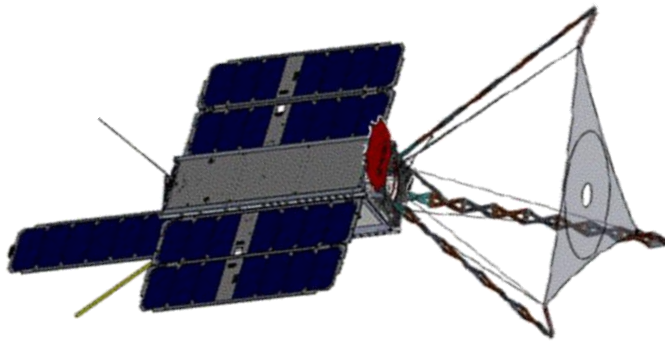
- Have created 0.56m version
  - $f=3\text{m}$ , 780 million holes!



- Formed the basis of MOIRE program:
  - Goal: 20m membrane in GEO (1000kg launch mass)
  - Phase I: Meter-scale demo

# FalconSAT-7

- FalconSAT program: cadets design, build, launch and operate small satellite
  - Astro Eng., Physics, Elec Eng., Management, Mech Eng.
- FalconSAT-7: Deploy membrane photon sieve to observe the Sun
  - 3U CubeSat (30cm x 10cm x 10cm)
  - 0.2m membrane photon sieve





# FalconSAT-7 Team

- USAFA – Management, systems integration, science, optics, and electronics



- NRO – Colony II CubeSAT, launch & networked ground stations

- NASA / Goddard – Science



- MMA Design LLC – Deployment system design

- AFIT – CubeSAT bus and mission modeling



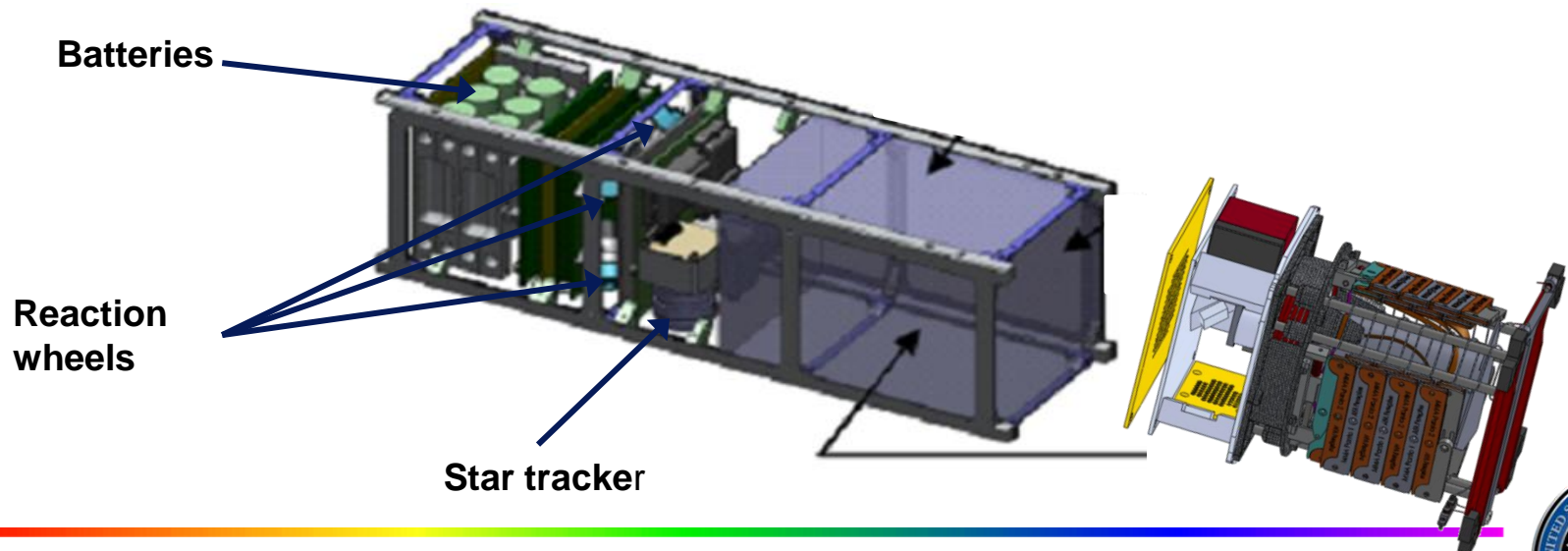
- AFRL/RVSV – Membrane analysis





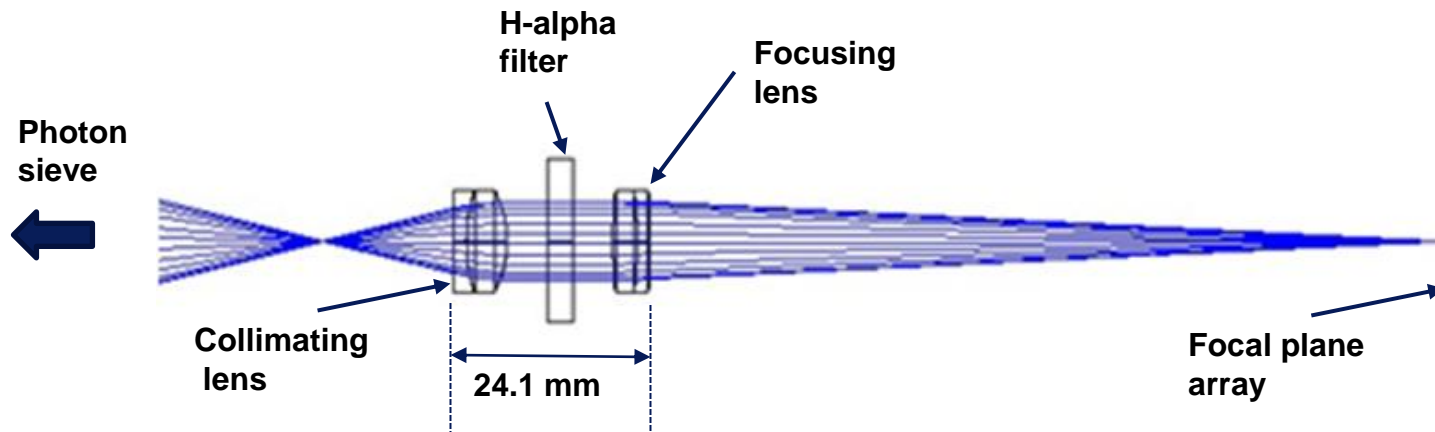
# Colony II Spacecraft

	Capability
Launch Vehicle Interface	Adheres to CubeSat P-POD requirements
Attitude Pointing	0.37° at all times ( $2\sigma$ )
Position Knowledge	$\pm 5$ km in x, y, and z
Data Rate	50 kbps (between 440-460 MHz and 900-928 MHz)
Payload Orbit Average Power	17.5 W (50% duty cycle)
Peak Power	70 W (for 2 minutes)
Thermal Control	Temperature range is -33°C to +71°C



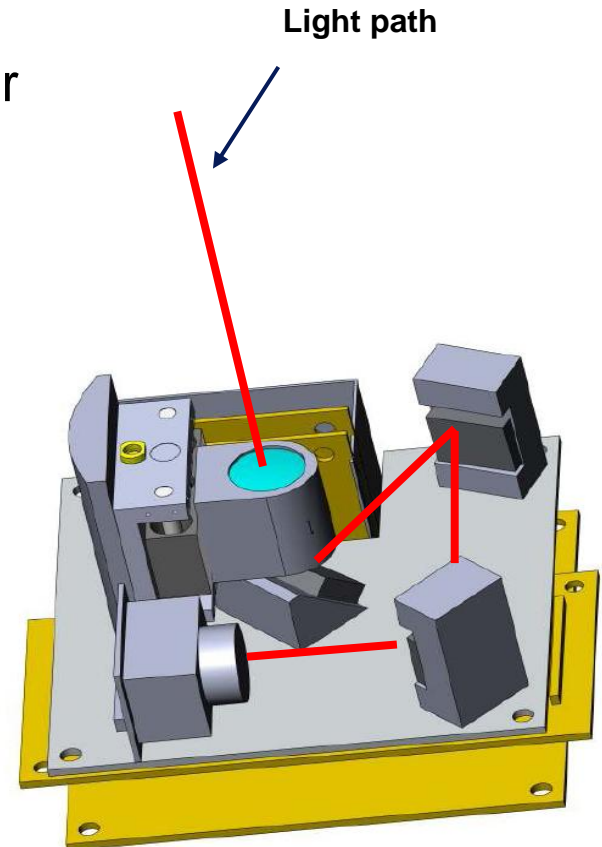
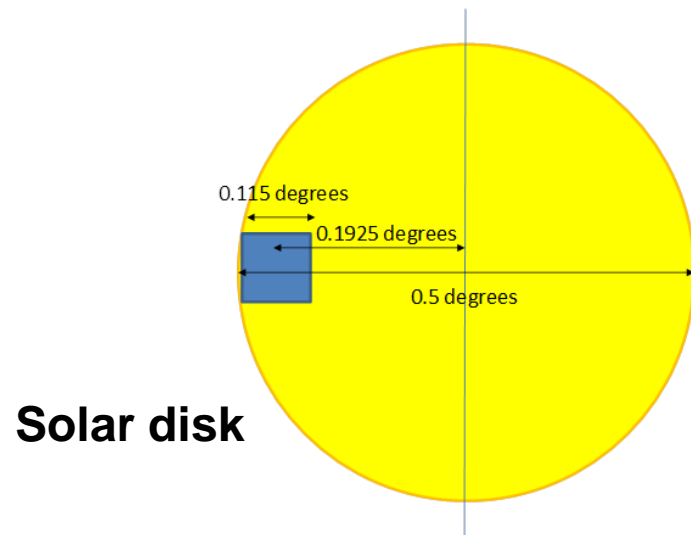
# Photon Sieve

- Binary phase photon sieve
  - Master/contact process or direct-write
- **2.5 billion pinholes (2-277 $\mu$ m diam.)**
- $D = 200\text{mm}$ ,  $f = 400\text{mm}$ ,  $\lambda = 656.3\text{nm}$
- 50% fill factor,  $\eta \sim 30\%$

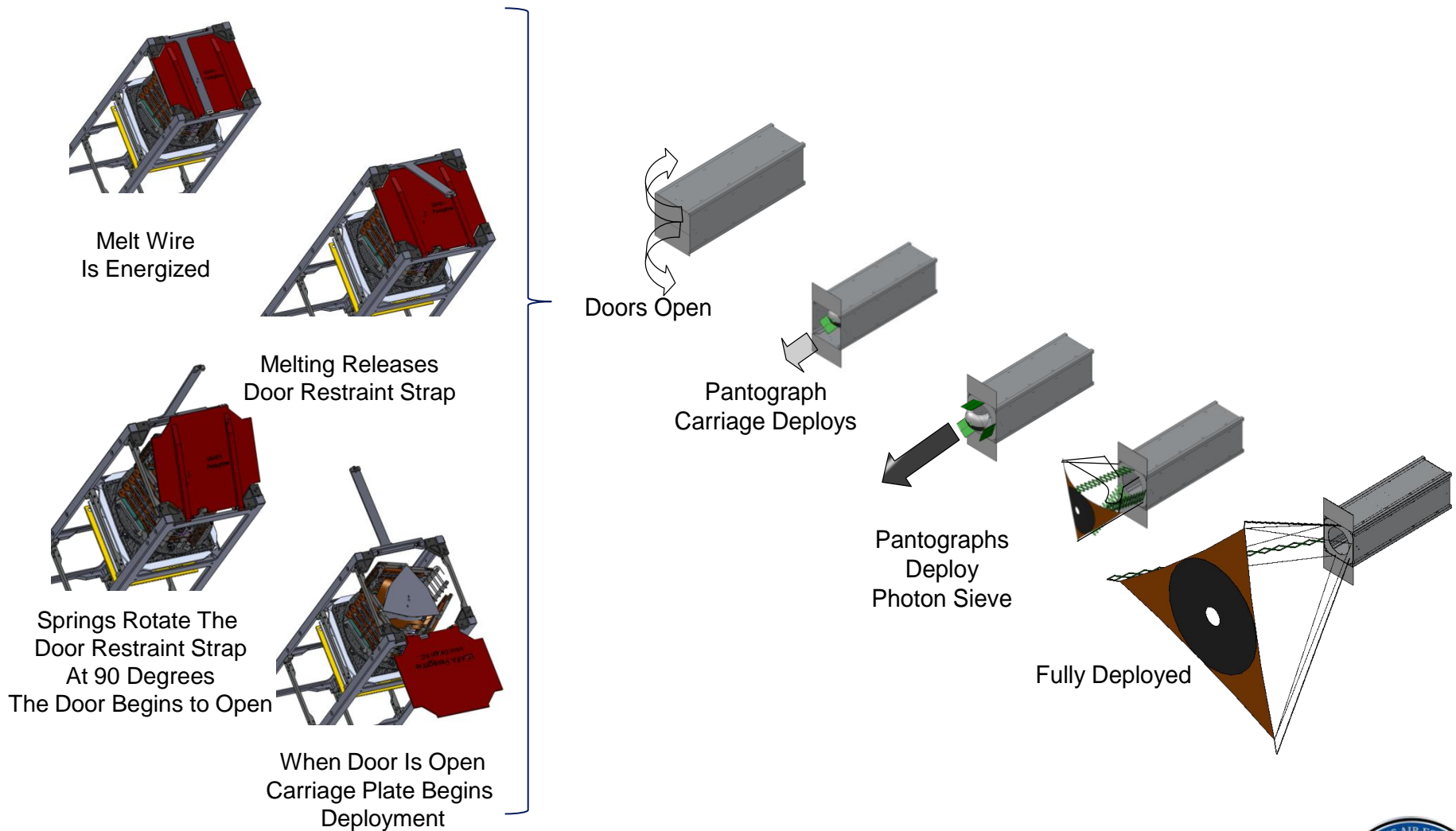


# Peregrine Optical System

- 2 secondary lenses & H-alpha filter
  - Kinematic adjustment for focus/decenter
- 4  $\mu\text{rad}$  resolution (600 km at Sun)
- $\sim 0.1^\circ$  FOV, 1 Å spectral bandwidth
  - Depends on final choice of camera



# Peregrine Deployment Sequence



# Project Schedule

## Reviews

- Oct 2010 - System Requirements Review
- Dec 2010 - Conceptual Design Review
- Dec 2011 - Preliminary Design Review
- May 2012 - Critical Design Review

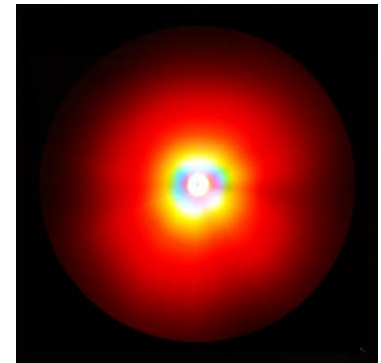
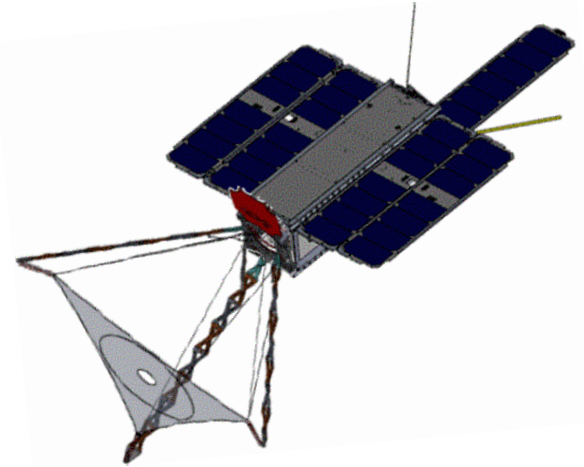
## Engineering Model

- Aug 2011 - Engineering Bus Arrives
- Jun 2011 - Payload Lab Prototype
- Qual Model
- May 2012 - Payload Qual

## Flight Model

- Oct 2011 - Flight Bus Arrives
- Dec 2012 - Payload Flight Model Finished
- Aug 2013 - Payload Integration & Test Complete

**Ready for Launch Sep 2013**



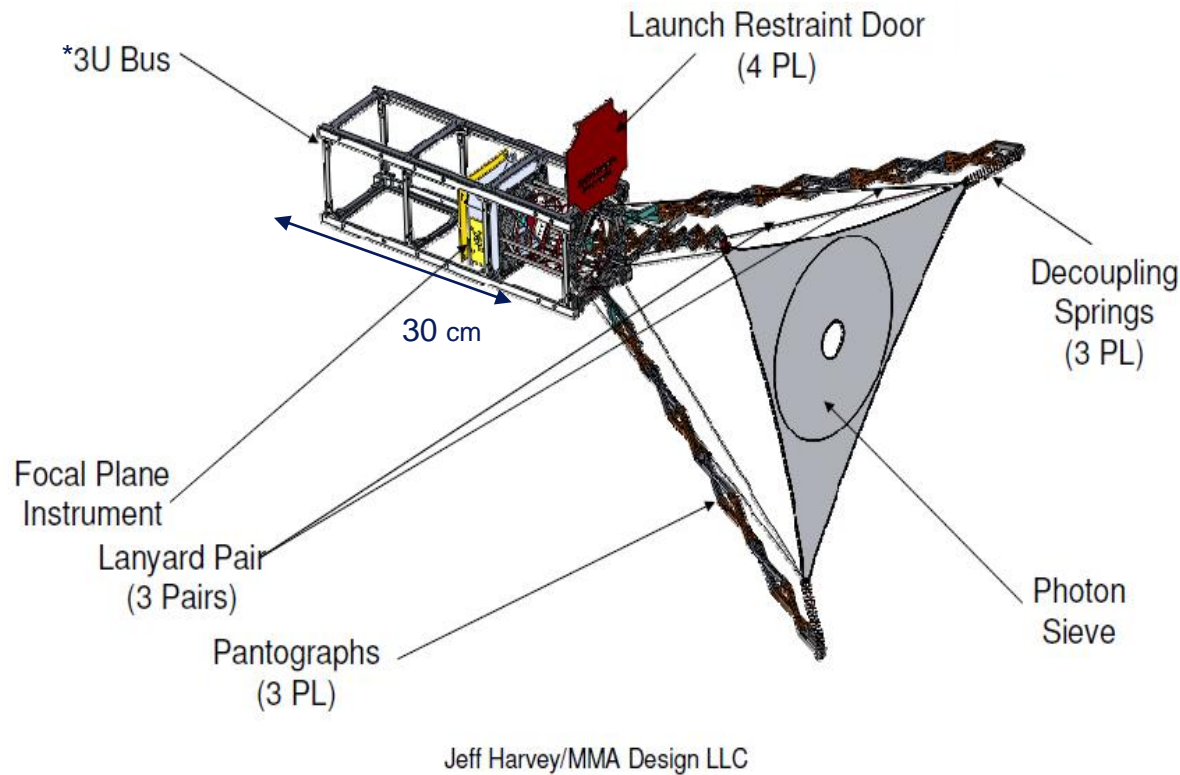
Optical test pattern of photon sieve master



# Questions?

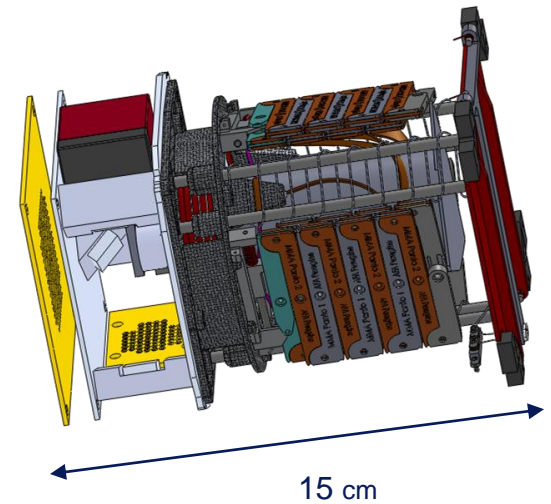


# FalconSAT-7 System



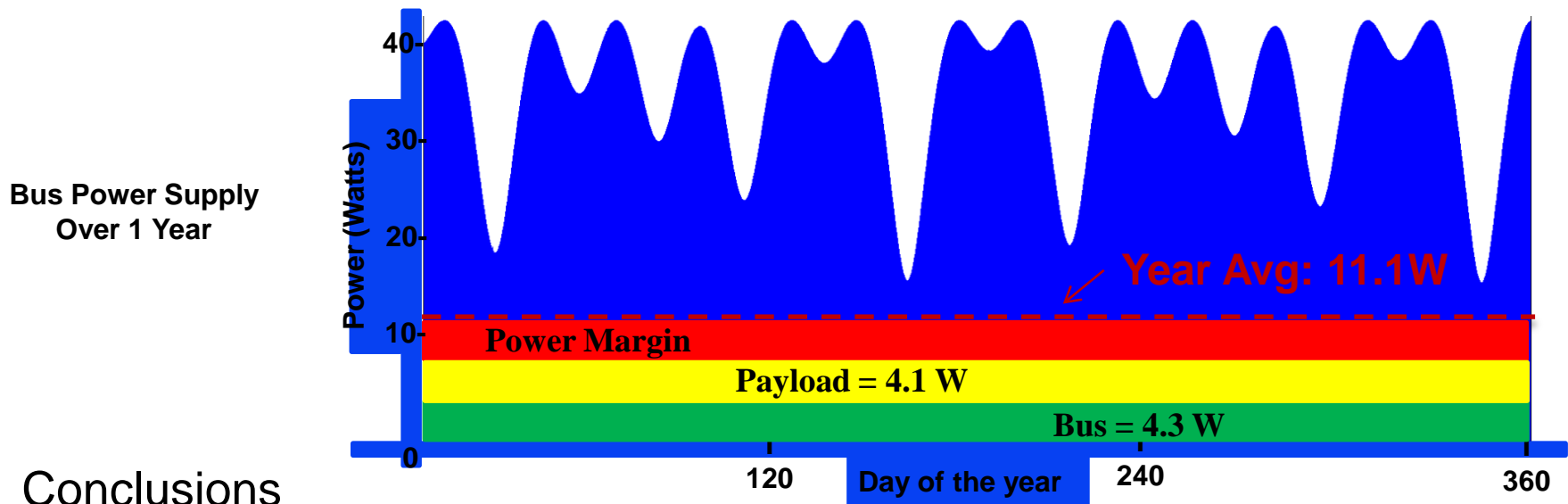
\* Avionics not shown

## Peregrine Payload



# Power

- Power analysis done by AFIT
  - Generated using STK solar panel module (28% eff. cells at 28°C)
  - Sun Beta Angle of 30 degrees



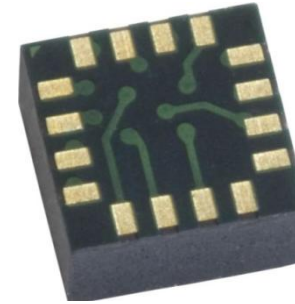
- Conclusions
  - AFIT analysis verifies Boeing power estimations
  - Removal of one solar panel will not jeopardize mission
  - Payload requirement: Peak: 6.7 W Average: 4.1 W
  - Power margin: Peak: 63.3 W Average: 2.7 W





# ADCS

- AFIT review
  - Assumes baseline Colony-II
  - 700km orbit altitude
- Conclusions
  - Colony II baseline configuration meets FS-7 ADCS requirements
  - Future analysis:
    - Performance at different altitudes
    - Deployed optics effects on ADCS



3 Axis Magnetic  
Sensor by Honeywell

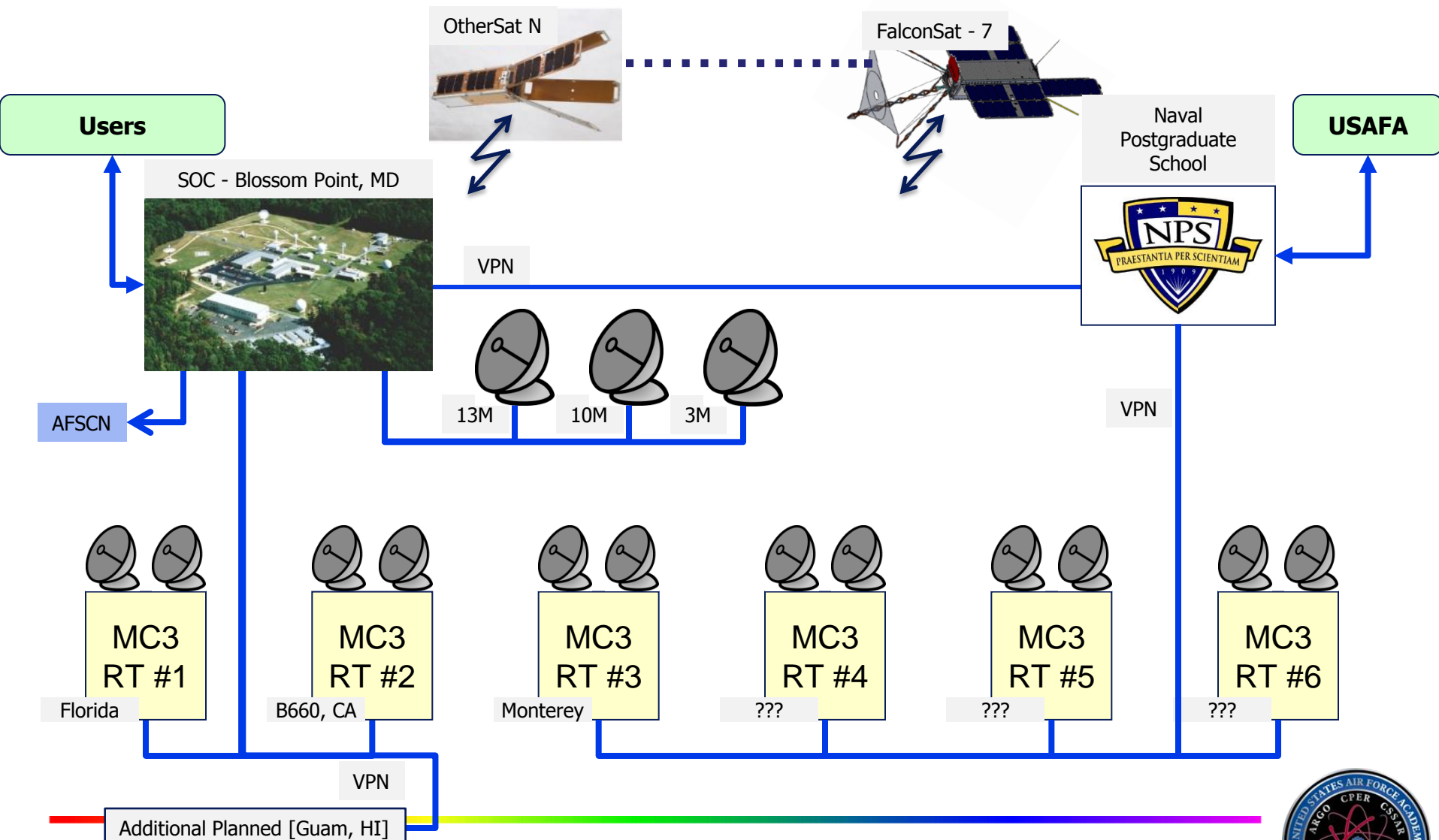
Parameter	Performance Value
Attitude Determination in Attitude Hold	.31 deg ( $2\sigma$ )
Pointing Performance Slew and Hold – 3 axis	.42 deg ( $2\sigma$ )
FS-7 Knowledge Threshold/Objective (Sun Imaging)	$\pm.5/\pm.32$ deg ( $2\sigma$ )
FS-7 Control Threshold/Objective (Sun Imaging)	$\pm.5/\pm.42$ deg ( $2\sigma$ )

# Buy CIIB Ground Station

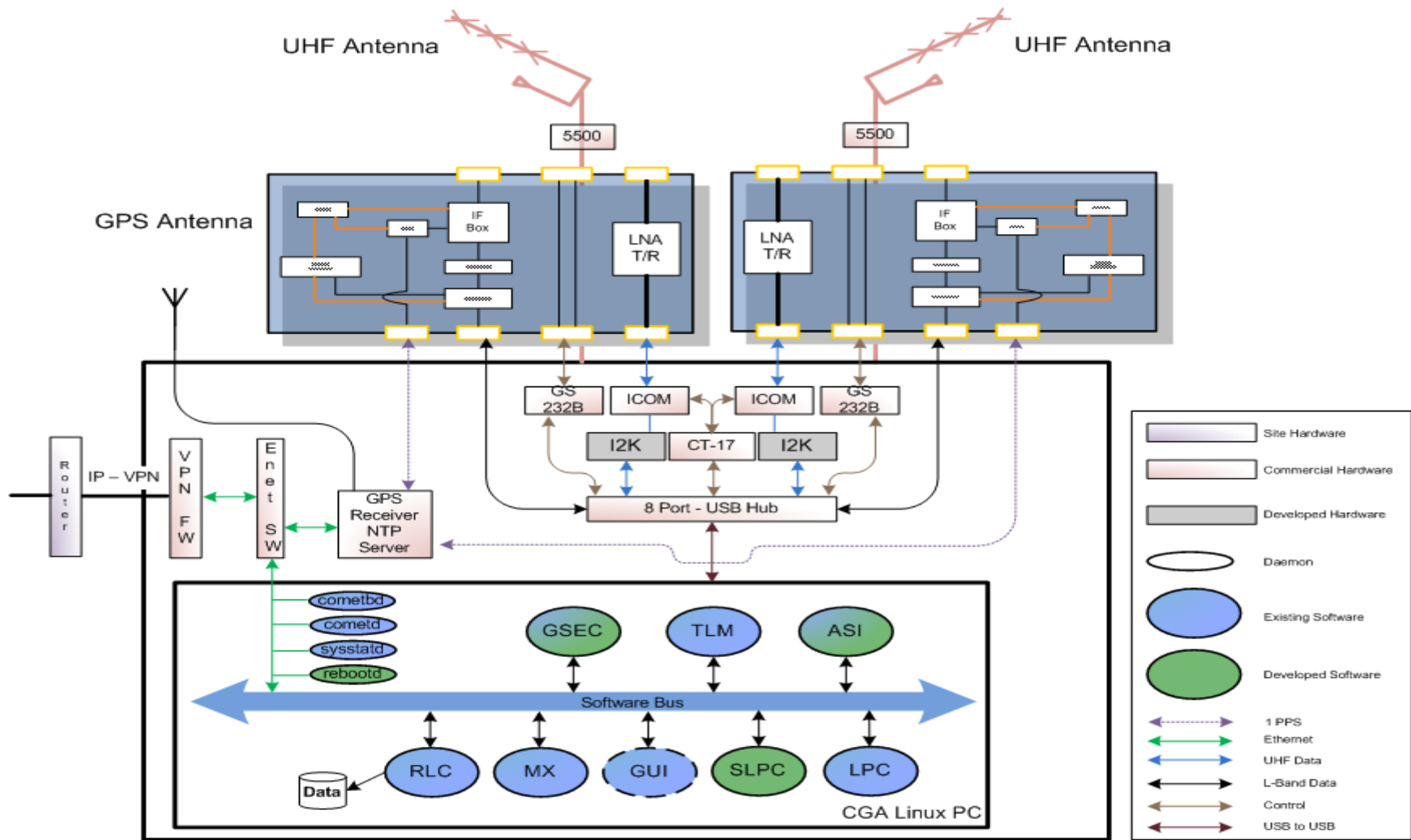
- Prebuilt CIIB GS from NRL.
- Build into current USAFA SatComm architecture
- Advantages: Additional GS at USAFA, singular source of control and decision making over comm. Time with our satellite, access to CIIB network, other ground stations.
- Disadvantages: Cost (80K-100K), already don't have man hours available, adding to complexity of ground architecture, increasing risk.



# CIIB Net

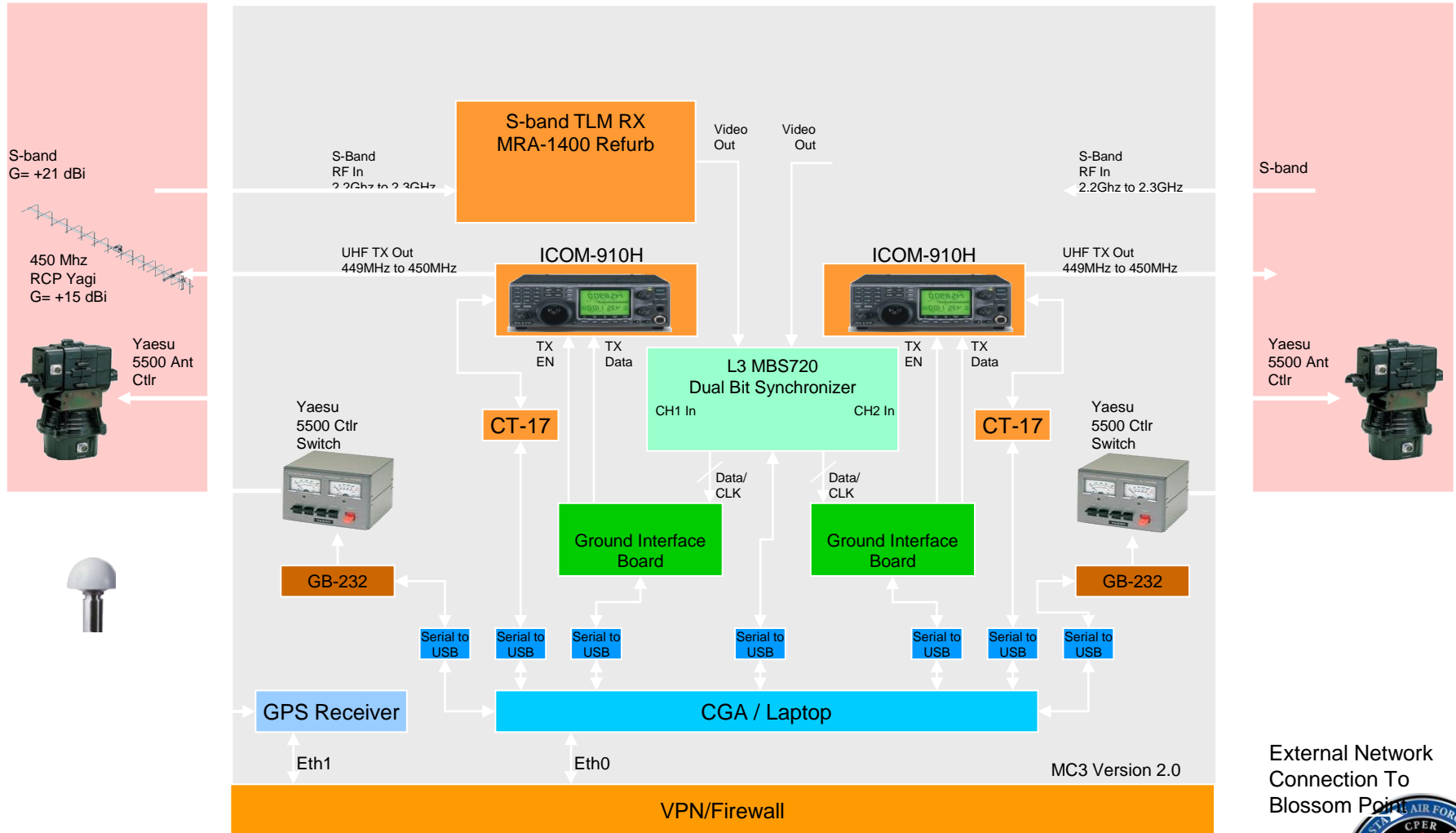


# CIIB Communications System



# CIIB GS Architecture

## MC3 Version 2.0 Baseline Configuration



# Communication

- Colony II Specifications

- Uplink 450 MHz at 9.6 kbps; Downlink 915 MHz at 57.6 kbps; BER: 1E-5
- Up to 2 GB storage on bus (shared between payload/bus)

- Payload Requirements

	MBytes/Image		Images/Day		MBytes/Day	
	Threshold	Objective	Threshold	Objective	Threshold	Objective
Sun Imaging	0.346	2	1	10	0.346	20
Earth Imaging	0.346	2	0	1	0	2

- Payload has additional 2 GB storage (TBR)
- RS-422 serial connection to bus

- Communication Analysis

- Orbit: 450 km  $i=98^\circ$
- Assume USAFA ground station
- Sufficient link margin for up/downlink: ~10 dB above required 9.6 dB
- ~53 sec to download one picture (10% overhead)

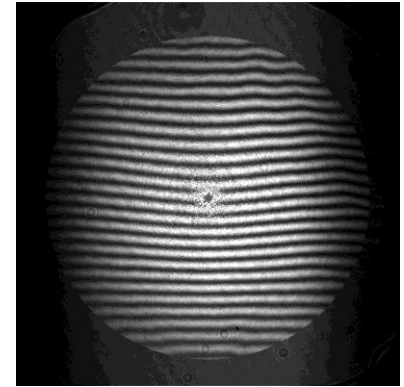
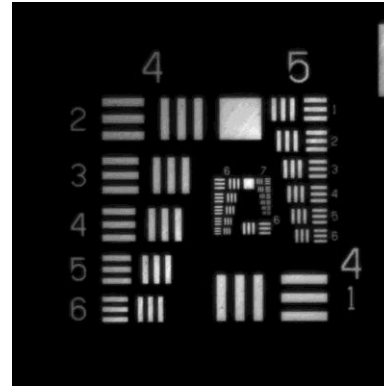
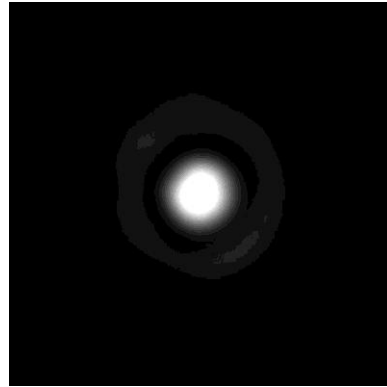
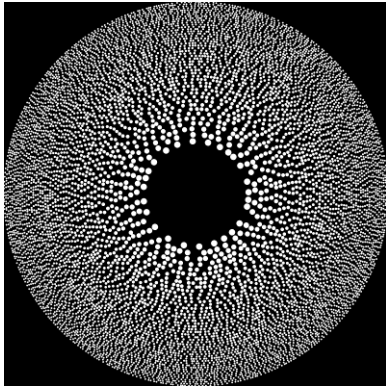


C&DH Module



# Metal film

- Made on 12.5 $\mu\text{m}$  thick electroformed nickel
  - D= 100mm, f=1m, 5 million antiholes
- Diffraction limited imaging but films too delicate for practical purposes
  - Thicker film not possible with 19 $\mu\text{m}$  holes



# Diazo film

- Photosensitive polymer for lithography
  - Contact copying of quartz master
- Performance was less than perfect
  - Thick photosensitive layer resulted in blurring of hole images
  - Film had significant thickness variations due to rollers used in fabrication

